HACKERS AFTER IGGY AZALEA FOR APOLOGY

ANONYMOUS THREATENS NUDE PIC SCANDAL IF SHE DOESN'T. PAGE 14

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Monday, December 22, 2014 **www.metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork**

New York mourns

Brooklyn. As the city tries to recover from Saturday's brutal slaying of two cops, tensions rise. PAGE 02

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams pays his respects at the memorial on Tompkins Avenue where two NYPD officers were shot and killed. / MILES DIXON, METRO

PBA chief, mayor spar over cop slayings

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Eat your way to a flu-free holiday

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Is it time for you to quit your day job?

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Jets give Pats a fight but fall in the end

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 'Cameron Diaz marrying one of the Madden twins'

2 'Northwest Raiders use Philadelphia grit to win Pop Warner Super Bowl'

3 'Study shows subway air samples include human skin'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

People gather at a memorial on Tompkins Avenue where the two NYPD officers, Liu, middle, and Ramos, right, were shot and killed. / MILES DIXON, METRO

Brooklyn sad, uneasy after stranger kills cops

Shootings. Bed-Stuy residents worry police killings may unleash more trouble.

New York was a city in shock Sunday after two police officers were ambushed and killed by a man who'd just shot his girlfriend in Baltimore, then rode a bus to New York, saying he had "blood on his shoes" and was planning to kill a pair of cops.

Outside the Tompkins Houses, a city housing project where officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos were parked in their patrol car when they were killed by Ismaaiyl Brinsley, residents mourned the deaths and said they fear what Saturday's murders could mean for their community.

"It's not fair. It wasn't from anyone over here," said Tanya Clarke, 22. "It's going to be scary now, we don't know what to expect or what's going to happen next.

Less than a day since the shooting, a makeshift memorial stands feet away from where Brinsley approached from the rear passenger side and killed both officers before they had time to draw their guns.

Officials said the officers were parked at the corner of Tompkins and Myrtle avenues to help with a recent spate of violence in the neighborhood.

Police Commissioner Bill Bratton told reporters Brinsley had no ties to East Flatbush, leaving some Tompkins residents confused.

"What was he doing here?" asked John Foster, 58. "He's not even from here."

Neighbor Elizabeth Johnson, 65, placing a candle at a makeshift memorial to the officers, said her own son has been stopped excessively by police and threatened by local gangs.

"There are good cops and bad cops, just like there are good and bad people," said Johnson. "But we couldn't survive here without our police."

Relations with cops and especially young residents has worsened, said Shaquille Carter, 20, who told of seeing some agitators mocking the growing police presence in front of the crime scene on Saturday night.

"Some people were saying stuff like, 'Ha ha, that's what you all get,'" Carter said. "You could see that [police] were mad and they were crying. That's not just today — it's going to last for a while."

Visit **Metro.us** to read more about the ongoing investigation.

Quoted

"All lives matter. It's not time to be jumping on bandwagons."

Dee Williams, who grew up in Bed-Stuy, after she lit a candle at the memorial

CHESTER JESUS SORIA
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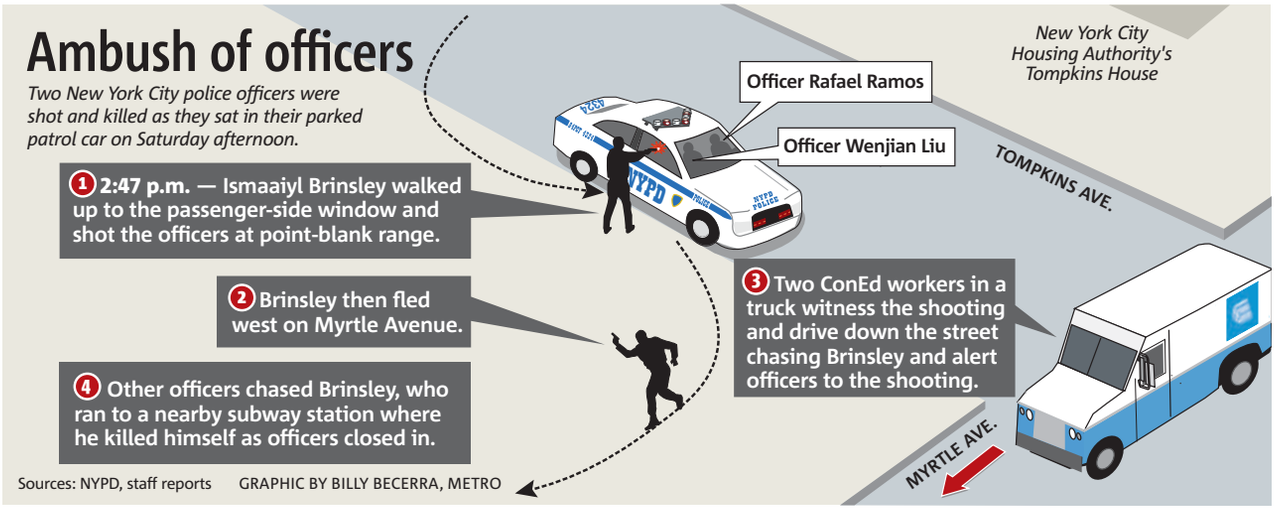
Ambush of officers

Two New York City police officers were shot and killed as they sat in their parked patrol car on Saturday afternoon.


New York City Housing Authority's Tompkins House
Officer Rafael Ramos
Officer Wenjian Liu
TOMPKINS AVE.
1 2:47 p.m. — Ismaaiyl Brinsley walked up to the passenger-side window and shot the officers at point-blank range.
2 Brinsley then fled west on Myrtle Avenue.
3 Two ConEd workers in a truck witness the shooting and drive down the street chasing Brinsley and alert officers to the shooting.
4 Other officers chased Brinsley, who ran to a nearby subway station where he killed himself as officers closed in.
MYRTLE AVE.

Sources: NYPD, staff reports GRAPHIC BY BILLY BECERRA, METRO

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PBA, de Blasio go to war over police deaths

PBA President Patrick Lynch in June. / GETTY

Police. PBA boss Lynch says the mayor has blood on his hands.

The families of fallen officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos called for "peaceful coexistence" between the NYPD and the city they police on Sunday night.

The call came after 24 hours of rancor that saw the top police union leader accuse Mayor Bill de Blasio of having blood on his hands in the death of the two cops, for suggesting that New Yorkers of color may be right to fear police and for meeting with the Justice League, which has organized protests against police over the death of Eric Garner.

Officers lining the halls of Woodhull Hospital, where the two policemen were pronounced dead, turned their backs to de Blasio as he arrived for a press conference with Police Commissioner Bill Bratton.

A short time later, Patrolmen's Benevolent Association President Pat Lynch said "there's blood on many hands tonight," and the blood starts at City Hall. Lynch also said protesters who participated in recent peaceful marches on the deaths of Garner and other black men by police, were to blame for the officer's deaths.

Lynch denied sending a widely reported memo that circulated on Saturday, ordering two police cars to respond to every call. The memo said "the mayor's hands are literally dripping with our blood because of his words, actions and policies," and that the NYPD has become a "'wartime' police department."

The Sergeants Benevolent Association tweeted out Saturday night "the blood of 2 executed police officers is on the hands of Mayor de Blasio." Former Gov. George Pataki said on Twitter the "barbaric acts" are a "predictable outcome of divisive anti-cop rhetoric" of U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Mayor de Blasio.

The relationship between the police unions and City Hall has been strained since the Ferguson and Staten Island grand jury decisions not to indict police officers in the killing of unarmed black men. Last month, the PBA said de Blasio threw officers "under the bus" during a speech following the Garner decision. De Blasio recounted conversations he's had with his son Dante, who is biracial, on how to interact with the police.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

Twitter responses

- "Two wrongs don't make a right. No one deserves to lose their life. Not a cop, a civilian, NOBODY #NYPDLives-Matter #AllLivesMatter. **KAPO @BIGKAPO** 145 retweets
- "Appalled by horrific murder of NYPD officers Liu & Ramos - killed doing their duty - London stands united with the great city of New York." **BORIS JOHNSON @MAYOROFLONDON** 190 retweets
- "I urge NCAA, NBA, NFL & NHL teams to display NYPD insignia on their uniforms to honor the memory of two assassinated NYPD officers." **REP. PETE KING @REPPETEKING** 182 retweets
- "Whoever praises the man who killed those two police officers are just pure evil. Rip to them they are humans too. #NYPDLivesMatter." **JAHREE @JAHREEEE** 5 retweets
- "Why Respect Police? Because we don't call gangsters when we are in trouble. #NYPDLivesMatter." **MARKEECE YOUNG! @YOUNGBLKREPUB** 82 retweets
- "So when black people are killed we should be silent and obey the law? But, When cops are killed we should be outraged? #NYPDLives-Matter." **POLITICAL NERD @STTBS73** 181 retweets
- "@NYPDCommAffairs So is mine but yurs is NEVER BROKEN when yur #police kill innocent people & yur thug racist union president disrespects ppl." **SHANA JULY @SHANAJULY**

Sharpton: Police killing puts city in 'hour of darkness'

Civil rights. Cop shooting is "hurting the cause" of families seeking justice.

Rev. Al Sharpton speaks Sunday at the headquarters of the National Action Network. / GETTY IMAGES

The killing of two New York City police officers by an apparently deranged man Saturday has left the city facing "an hour of darkness," community leader Rev. Al Sharpton told a church audience in Harlem Sunday. He denounced the deaths, noting they are "hurting the cause" of justice for Eric Garner.

"That does not solve the problem of police brutality," Sharpton said, speaking at the National Action Network headquarters in Harlem on Sunday morning. "If we go into an area where it's an "eye for an eye," then it is only a matter of who can out-pluck eyes, rather than who can make the system fair for everyone."

Garner's widow, Esaw, stood with Sharpton and expressed her sympathy for the families of officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos.

"I know what it's like to lose a loved one before the holidays," she said at the church. "I would ask everyone that's protesting with us to protest in a nonviolent way; my husband was not a violent man. We don't want any violence connected to his name."

Sharpton said he's received several threatening phone calls since the officers were shot in the head and body as they sat in their patrol car in Bedford-Stuyvesant on Saturday afternoon.

Police said the shooter, Ismaaiyl Brinsley, 28, traveled from Baltimore to Brooklyn to shoot the officers, and posted anti-police statements on social media about avenging the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown. Brinsley died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, police said.

"Those that try to misuse the names of the victims are not only wrong morally … they are hurting the cause of these families. And they are as insensitive to these families as those that oppose them," Sharpton said.

Sharpton and the Garner family did not answer reporters questions on whether the Garner protests would continue in the wake of the officer deaths.

In the afternoon, Sharpton gave a sermon at St. Luke's Baptist Church in Harlem, surrounded by Advent candles and poinsettias.

"There is no denying we are in an hour of darkness in this city," Sharpton said.

He criticized the "scapegoaters" blaming the protesters and Mayor Bill de Blasio, saying Brinsley "probably didn't even know the name of the mayor of New York."

"In the next few days, we will see leaders that raise the city above the turbulence, or we will see those freaks that want to see a city rattle in the turbulence of the hour."

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE
Wendy.Biddlecombe@metro.us

March

Protest turns to service in Harlem church

Community organizers again marched silently in Harlem on Sunday evening to seek justice for victims of police violence, even as elected officials asked to put the protest movement on hold.

At least 150 members and supporters of the activist group Justice League NYC marched along West 110th Street, many holding candles in memory of both victims of police abuse and the two NYPD officers murdered in Brooklyn.

The march ended with an hour-long service at Harlem's First Corinthian Baptist Church.

"Our movement has never been about revenge or vendettas," said Linda Sarsour, a member of the group. "It's been about love."

"We do come here tonight hurting about two officers being gunned down in the streets," she said. "People who want police accountability — we do not accept anything that happened yesterday as being right."

CHESTER JESUS SORIA

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New Yorkers voice opinions

New Yorkers speak out on the deaths of two police officers in Brooklyn at the hands of a crazed gunman.

WENDY JOAN BIDDLECOMBE

Emotions ran high Sunday as New Yorkers reflected on the killing of Police Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos.

"I feel like we're back in the 1970s when racial tension was out of control. I blame the mayor and the president. I feel they have incited this racial tension," said Donna Howley of Bensonhurst, whose daughter is an NYPD officer, as she laid a wreath to honor the fallen cops.

Ruben McCann
68

"I pray that no more actions like that go forward, I pray that this is not a signal to anyone else to try to copy it. I don't think we the people feel that way."

Ron Thomas
61

"What is everyone saying this is the result of everything else? This could be one crazy man, we don't know. People are jumping to conclusions, and no one really knows what's going on in his head, what made him do it. But I do know that's not the way to handle it."

Quaslim Inham
Late 60s

"If you listen carefully to what the PBA president is saying, he's bringing gallons of gasoline to the fire. With the person who killed the two police officers, clearly he had issues. And when you take issues, anger and a gun, and put them together, you have a stew that's potent and poisonous."

"I don't think it goes too far to say the mayor did not properly police the protests. He allowed the protesters to take over the streets. He allowed them to hurt police officers, to commit crimes, and he didn't arrest them. And when you do that, similar to what happened in Crown Heights, you create a great riot. He should have known better."

Rudolph Giuliani
Former Mayor

"Our elected officials have irresponsibly added to an incendiary atmosphere of distrust against law enforcement. Their words and actions have emboldened and inexplicably legitimized the illegal actions of the 'peaceful protesters.'"

Lou Turco
President, NYPD Police Lieutenants Benevolent Association

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Police officers salute as vehicles pass carrying the bodies of two slain officers. / REUTERS

Police try to learn what drove cop killer

Investigation. No apparent motive for a man's act that cost two officers their lives.

Police on Sunday were trying to learn what drove an out-of-town man to shoot his ex-girlfriend near Baltimore, then take a bus to New York and kill two policemen at point-blank range later that day.

So far, they have no concrete motive, but have poured over Ismaaiyl Brinsley's social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram postings, his Gmail account and two telephones, one stolen from his ex-girlfriend.

Brinsley, 28, had at least 19 prior arrests in Georgia and Ohio. Police say Brinsley stopped two people on the street moments before he shot Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu.

Robert Boyce, chief of detectives, told reporters that Brinsley asked the passersby for their gang affiliations, asked them to follow him on Instagram and then said, "Watch what I'm going to do."

After leaving Baltimore on a Bolt Bus for Manhattan, Brinsley called the ex-girlfriend's mother to say he had shot her daughter by accident and hoped she'd recover.

Along the way he posted a message to a social media account that read: "I'm putting wings on pigs today. They take 1 of ours … let's take 2 of theirs."

He ditched the girlfriend's phone near the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, where Baltimore police were able to locate it.

They notified the NYPD at about 2:45 p.m., Boyce said. A minute later Brinsley circled behind the parked patrol car and shot Officers Ramos and Liu dead.

The gun was bought nearly 20 years ago in Georgia by someone using the ID of a man who would have been a 9-year-old child when it was purchased.

Detectives interviewed Brinsley's family members in Brooklyn. His mother said she had not spoken with her son in a month, and described a violent childhood to police.

While Brinsley grew up in a Muslim household, "we're told by family that he's never expressed any radicalization at all," and that the mother feared him, Boyce said.

Brinsley tried to hang himself last year, Boyce said, offering no explanation.

Quote

"What we are seeing right now is anger against the government."
Boyce

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Cuban cigars for sale are on display at a hotel in Havana. / REUTERS

Cuba's famed cigars get a foot in door of US market

New Cuba policy. The cigar was among the first forbidden Cuban products legalized.

Milagros Diaz has been rolling cigars for 48 years, so long she cannot even smell tobacco anymore, and she is thrilled that the U.S. market is finally opening up for her handmade Cuban "habanos."

Since President Obama announced on Wednesday he would restore diplomatic ties with Cuba and start dismantling economic sanctions, Americans have been filing into the cigar shop at the Hotel Nacional in Havana, where she hand-rolls cigars using techniques little changed since the 19th century.

"The Americans!" she said, her face lighting up as she clapped her hands over her head. "They're not scared anymore. I'm super happy because in my 67 years I never thought I would see diplomatic relations. And we think we're going to sell more, because this is just getting started."

Cigars have been Cuba's signature product ever since Christopher Columbus saw natives smoking rolled up tobacco leaves when he first sailed to the Caribbean island in 1492.

Fidel Castro, who took power in Cuba's 1959 revolution, was often seen puffing on his favored, long and thin lancero model until he quit in 1985.

Cuban cigars are considered by many as the best in the world — brands such as Cohiba, Montecristo and Partagas — but the U.S. trade embargo blocks their access to a market that last year imported 317.6 million premium, hand-rolled cigars.

The restrictions could be further loosened over time. Wholesale shipments directly to the United States would require Congress to lift the embargo, or for Obama to declare an exception for cigars under the Trading with the Enemy Act. REUTERS

New rules

$100

Under new rules to be implemented soon, the United States will make it easier for some Americans to travel to Cuba and they will be able to return with $100 worth of alcohol and tobacco.

CNN interview

Obama vows to 'do everything I can' to close Guantanamo

President Barack Obama said in a TV interview set for broadcast on Sunday that he will do "everything I can" to close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, after four Afghan detainees held there were sent home.

Obama promised to shut the internationally condemned prison when he took office nearly six years ago, saying it was damaging America's image around the world. But he has been unable to do so, partly because of obstacles posed by Congress.

"I'm going to be doing everything I can to close it," Obama said on CNN's "State of the Union with Candy Crowley," program in an interview taped on Friday.

Guantanamo GETTY IMAGES

"It is contrary to our values and it is wildly expensive. We're spending millions for each individual there. And we have drawn down the popultion there significantly," he added. In the latest step in the gradual push to close the prison, four Afghans held for over a decade at Guantanamo have been sent home, the Pentagon said on Saturday. REUTERS

Obama says Sony hack was not an act of war

The president. Obama put the hack in the context of a crime.

President Barack Obama moved to prevent anger at North Korea from spiraling out of control on Sunday by saying the massive hacking of Sony Pictures was not an act of war but instead was cybervandalism.

Washington's long-standing dispute with North Korea, which for years has centered on its nuclear weapons program, has entered new territory with the accusation that Pyongyang carried out an assault on a Hollywood entertainment company.

Obama and his advisers are weighing how to punish North Korea after the FBI concluded on Friday that Pyongyang was responsible. North Korea has denied it was to blame.

"No, I don't think it was an act of war," he told CNN's "State of the Union" show that aired on Sunday. "I think it was an act of cybervandalism that was very costly, very expensive. We take it very seriously. We will respond proportionately."

Obama said one option was to return North Korea to the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, from which Pyongyang was removed six years ago.

North Korea vowed on Sunday to hit back against any U.S. retaliation.

"Our toughest counteraction will be boldly taken against the White House, the Pentagon and the whole U.S. mainland, the cesspool of terrorism, by far surpassing the 'symmetric counteraction' declared by Obama," according to North Korea state news agency KCNA. **REUTERS**

North Korea said it was not involved in the Sony attack and could prove it. Pyongyang said it wanted a joint investigation into the incident with the United States. / REUTERS

Hack sanctions

Lawmaker calls for strong US response

The U.S. House Intelligence Committee chairman on Sunday called for a "very serious" reaction, including sanctions, to a North Korean cyberattack on Sony Pictures, saying it was not enough for the United States to restrict that country's cyber capability.

Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MIchigan) criticized President Barack Obama on "Fox News Sunday" for getting on a plane to Hawaii on Friday and not acting immediately against North Korea.

"The problem here was not that the fact that we didn't have the capability to do something nearly in immediate time. We just didn't get a decision from the president," Rogers said.

Rogers said there was much discussion last week about how to respond to the attack that wiped out Sony's computers in response to the film "The Interview," which depicts the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Rogers criticized the Obama administration's response as too late and too weak. **REUTERS**

ROGERS

NSC spokesman

US stands by assertion that N. Korea behind Sony attack

The United States stands by its assertion that the North Korean government was behind the massive cyberattack, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council said on Saturday.

Asked about North Korea's statement on Saturday denying involvement in the strike against the Hollywood studio, NSC spokesman Mark Stroh said: "As the FBI made clear, we are confident the North Korean government is responsible for this destructive attack. We stand by this conclusion." **REUTERS**

Quoted

"The government of North Korea has a long history of denying responsibility for destructive and provocative actions."
Stroh

VISIT US AT 59TH BETWEEN PARK & MADISON

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Be choosy with your applications

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If you or someone you know is a high school senior (or the parent of a senior) you've heard the horror stories — students applying to 10 or more schools and planning dozens of visits in the hopes of getting into at least one.

One admissions official says everyone should take a deep breath and rethink their strategy. "More applications don't necessarily mean better odds," says Bob McCaig, vice president for enrollment management at Monmouth University.

Instead of applying to every school out there, McCaig suggests that students and their families try to be a bit more strategic about how they go about the selection process. He shares these suggestions on how to have a (relatively) stress-free experience.

Start as early as you can

"If you are a junior, you should start doing online and physical visits," advises McCaig. "Start talking to teachers, counselors and friends and use that summer to start doing visits."

Think about what you want

As you start to do your visits, start asking yourself about your interests. How big of a school are you looking for? Do you want to go to a public, private or faith-based college? How far do you want to be from your hometown?

Be realistic about your chances

Look at the average SAT and ACT scores for each of the schools you are applying to. Do you fit that range? Be honest. "If the average score is 400 points higher than your score, that's not a stretch, that's a waste of time," McCaig points out.

Tip

Apply to schools that you like

Most important of all, eliminate schools from your list that you know you'll be miserable at. "Students should only apply to places they would be happy at," McCaig reminds us.

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2

CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Bob Saget is a romantic, Kirstie Alley has some big holiday plans, and Conan O'Brien is trying to be jolly.

@bobsaget: Falling in love during the holidays would be perfect if not for the rug burn.

@kirstiealley: I'm going to Italy to write a screenplay ... And to have sex with the occasional gondolier

@ConanOBrien: I'm pretty sure I saw this department store Santa in an old episode of "Dateline."

1

Hackers demand Iggy Azalea apologize to Azealia Banks

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

We're apparently officially in the age of hacker demands, as those lovable upstarts in Anonymous — the ones with the Guy Fawkes masks and all — have jumped into Iggy Azalea's feud with Azealia Banks, demanding that Azalea make a big public apology to Banks and the #ICantBreathe protestors or suffer the consequences. Just what consequences, you might ask? The group claims to have a sex tape featuring the singer and are threatening to release stills from it if she does not comply. Way to raise the stakes, guys.

They went on to threaten, "We have so much s— on you, your scandal would be bigger than Bill Cosby's," which seems kind of impossible just purely on a fame level. Unless there's millions of people out there who think of Azalea as a paragon of wholesomeness and morality that I don't know about. Last week, Azalea launched a new volley in her ongoing feud with Banks, calling her "a bigot" and "a miserable, angry human being" on Twitter. Fun times we live in these days.

2

Lance Bass totally upstaged by Elton John

So! Former *NSYNC member Lance Bass got hitched this weekend, marrying Michael Turchin at a lovely ceremony in Los Angeles attended by every member of his boy band except Justin Timberlake. It was a very big to-do, so Bass must be pretty peeved that, across the pond, Elton John had his own wedding the very next day, marrying longtime partner David Furnish. The couple did the whole civil union thing back in 2005, but now that full gay marriage is legal in the U.K., they decided to make it extra official. "We'll do it very quietly," he told Matt Lauer earlier this year of the wedding plans. Not quietly enough for Bass, though. Heck, John even created an Instagram account just to make a big deal out of the wedding. But maybe that's how he does quiet.

Elton John is seen here stealing Lance Bass's thunder.
INSTAGRAM, ELTONJOHN

3

Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard welcome another oddly named daughter

Kristen Bell and Dax Shepard named their first daughter, Lincoln, after Shepard's favorite car, so now that their second daughter has arrived we have a pretty good idea what Bell's favorite airline is. Or maybe they're big "Designing Women" fans? The couple welcomed daughter Delta Bell Shepard to the world last week.

Bell announced the news via Twitter along with a warning to her husband about her estrogen levels and a photo of a gorilla holding a baby gorilla's hand. The couple's first daughter was born in 2013, and they were married the same year, shortly after California's Proposition 8, banning same-sex marriage, was struck down.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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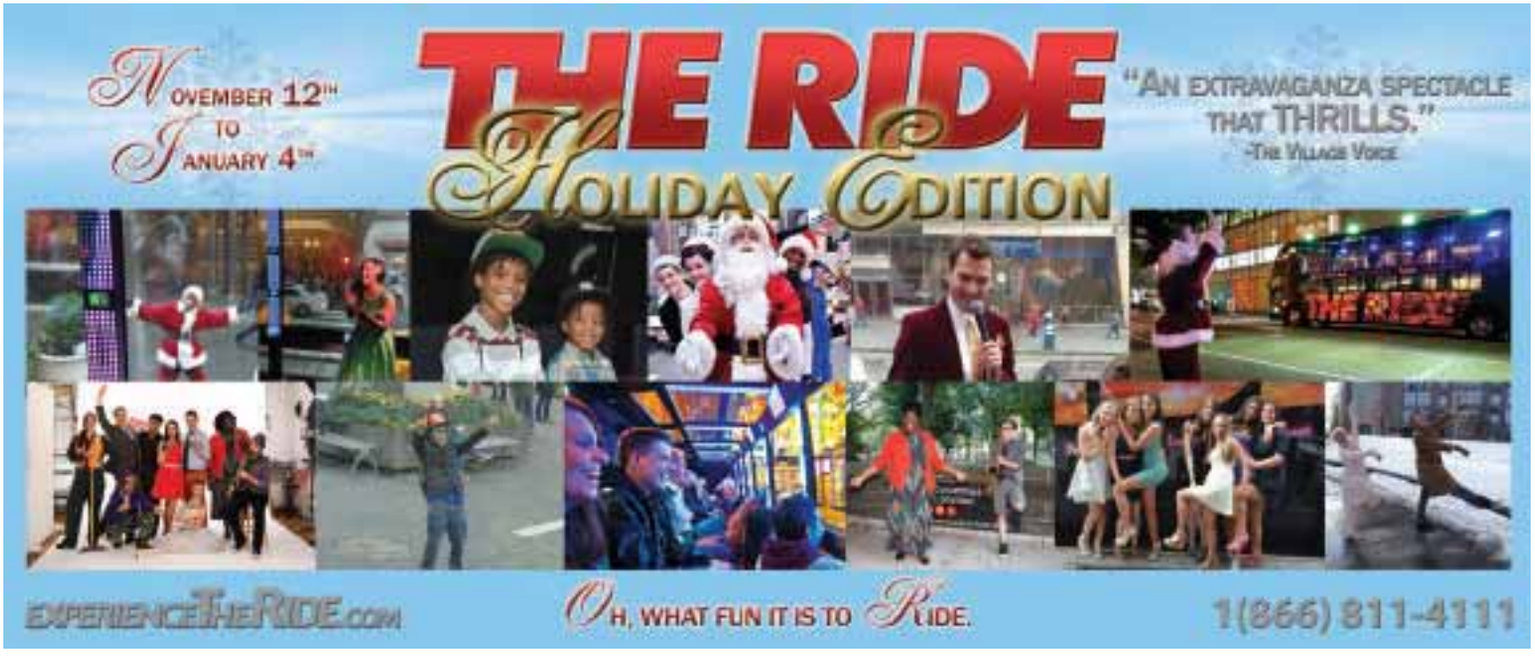
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

Daily video

Which member of One Direction can't do an American accent?

YOUTUBE, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

One Direction hit up "Saturday Night Live" as the musical guests, but being good sports that they are the boys also stepped in for a sketch, dropping by an episode of "Girlfriends Talk Show" as the male members of a high school dance squad, adorable track suits and all. And we learned something about the five guys, acting chopswise. Harry Styles is apparently incapable of doing an American accent — or taking off that ridiculous hat he's grown so attached to — while the other four can at manage a thick Brooklyn dock worker impression. And who knew Niall Horan had so much low end in his voice?



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- ☐ Leg cramps, especially at night
- ☐ Non-healing wounds in ankle areas
- ☐ Spider veins on legs and/or ankles
- ☐ Leg veins that appear very dark blue or purple
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Why Aren't Doctors Telling About These Two Often

Two Advanced Medical Treatments Every Knee Arthritis Sufferer

by OsteoRelief Center

OsteoRelief Center is a medical clinic with locations in Mid-town NYC, Financial District NYC And north Jersey that has treated thousands of knee arthritis patients since 2009.

Here is what every knee arthritis sufferer should know about the best treatments and options available today. Including when and why you should consider each of these 2 treatment approaches to get maximum results.

If you suffer with knee arthritis pain, you have probably already tried many treatments ... especially countless pain medications.

Experienced doctors understand that, even though pain medications such as anti-inflammatory pain pills are part of the recommended early treatment plan for knee arthritis pain... they are rarely the answer.

In most cases they have minimal results (if any) and have a laundry list of potential side effects. Some being serious and even life threatening.

Are There Any Better Options?

Thankfully, advancements in science and technology come extremely fast. And now there are two very good options for knee arthritis to help relieve the pain.

Two options that a lot of knee arthritis sufferers have never heard of.

Before we get into the two treatments, please understand this...

OsteoRelief Center is a REAL medical clinic that has treated thousands of knee arthritis sufferers. Patients travel from all over the country to be treated at one of their clinics because they want the best medical treatments available.

What you are about to discover are two REAL medical treatments. Not miracle cures you see on infomercials or on the internet.

Know this fact: There is no cure for arthritis. But there are these two treatments that have already helped thousands of knee arthritis sufferers - possibly just like you.

The first treatment is more common than the second. Even if you have heard of this treatment - or even tried it without good results - please read this. You will find out why it may not have worked for you and how you may be able to get much better results.

#1 Viscosupplementation

Viscosupplementation has gained quite a bit of popularity in recent years and it has gotten mixed results for a couple of reasons.

But before we get into that, here's what you need to know about viscosupplementation.

When you have arthritis, you suffer a decrease in the lubrication fluids in your knee.

In other words, your knee joints basically "dries up."

The lubricating fluid that decreases is called "synovial fluid."

Pharmaceutical companies (with the help of scientists) can now make natural synovial fluid gel-like compounds that, during viscosupplementation, treatments... doctors can precisely introduce directly into the knee and other joints.

This helps replace the lubricating fluid to the knee joint - allowing it to move more freely and smoothly and often decreasing or even eliminating the pain.

What Results Can Be Expected?

Like all medical treatments, the results vary and can not be predicted. But many knee arthritis sufferers get dramatic results. It is not uncommon for patients to either postpone knee replacement surgery for years... or even permanently cancel it.

But There Is A BIG Problem

The key is the treatment must be EXTREMELY PRECISE. If the injection is slightly off, the medication will not get into the knee joint and the treatment will not work.

That's why the experts at OsteoRelief Center use advanced digital imaging so they can see the medicine going directly into the knee joint during the treatment.

Research shows that doctors performing joint injections without imaging miss the joint as much as 30% of the time.

If you have tried viscosupplementation without this special digital imaging without good results - this may be why.

That's why OsteoRelief Center takes it even one step further. They do not just use one step process of advanced imaging during treatment - they use two in their "double confirmation" process. This is to ensure patients get the best possible results.

Another Important Factor

Viscosupplementation medications also come in several different brands and chemical make-ups. Just like all medications, some people respond better to some than others. While many doctors only use one brand, the experts at Osteorelief Center use several and great effort is taken to figure out what the best one for YOU is.

One last thing: The experts at OsteoRelief Center have found that the earlier you start Viscosupplementation the better.

This is most likely because the longer you wait - the more joint destruction takes place.

That's why OsteoRelief is now seeing so many patients as young as 45.

Summary: If you have knee arthritis pain and have not tried Viscosupplementation, you should look into it as soon as possible.

If you have tried it without good results, you may still be able to get great results with the proper imaging and specific medication.

What Should You Do If Viscosupplementation Fails?

When conservative treatment, including visco supplementation fail... most knee arthritis sufferers believe their only option is total knee replacement surgery.

This is not true... and here is why

There is another treatment for serious knee arthritis pain most people (and even doctors) do not know about.

#2 Radiofrequency Neurotomy

This treatment is called, "RadiofrequncyNeurotomy." RF for short

RF is a procedure that is based on the theory that blocking the nerve supply to the painful area may alleviate pain and restore function.

Several branches of nerves that surround the knee are known as "genicular nerves."

Radiofrequncy waves are delivered to the genicular nerves under advanced imaging to "block" the nerves

ADVERTISEMENT

Knee Arthritis Sufferers Successful Treatments?

Needs To Know - Before Or After Knee Replacement Surgery

Two procedures are performed. First, a test, diagnostic "G Block" procedure is done to determine if the procedure is going to decrease pain and improve function.

If this first "test" procedure is successful, Genicular Neurotomy (G - RF) is performed for long term relief.

Is It Safe?

Research has shown this procedure to be safe and effective.

One study published November 4, 2010 in the journal Pain found that RF treated subjects on average "achieved at least 50% knee pain relief at 1, 4 and 12 weeks, respectively. No patient reported a postprocedure adverse event during the follow-up period. RF neurotomy of genicular nerves leads to significant pain reduction and functional improvement in a subset of elderly chronic knee OA pain, and thus may be an effective treatment in such cases."

It should also be mentioned that, like all research, more studies should be done to get even more answers.

Who Should Try This Treatment?

RF should be considered after other treatments, such as anti-inflammatory pain medication and viscosupplementation do not offer good enough results.

RF can be utilized before resorting to total knee replacement. RF allows many patients to avoid knee replacement surgery.

RF has also been found effective AFTER knee replacement surgery when the patient still feels pain.

The pain after a failed knee replacement surgery can be debilitating and this procedure can be the only thing that helps and give you relief.

What To Do Next If You Are In Pain

Here is the "X" factor many do not consider that might be the difference between you getting the best possible treatment or not.

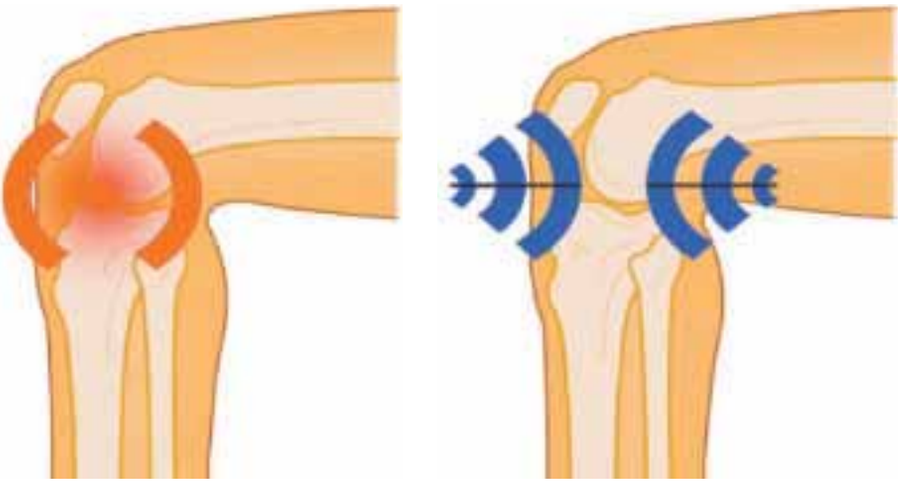
Many experts suggest choosing a medical clinic that offers all these treatments and has the proper, most advanced technology all under one roof.

This way, the doctors working on your case can give you a proper examination and advise the best possible treatment plan for your individual case.

Several experts work as a team to offer you the best treatment options at the appropriate time to maximize results. It is also very convenient to have all your doctors and treatments in one place. Traveling to different offices can be time consuming and and even more expensive.

OsteoRelief Center believes this "X" factor is one of the reasons so many knee arthritis sufferers travel from all over the country to be treated at one of their advanced medical clinics.

Advanced Treatment Uses Radio Frequencies To Relieve Knee Arthritis Pain



Science rescues knee arthritis sufferers?: Radio Frequency Waves are used to block the nerve supply to the painful area and may alleviate pain and restore function to many.

Your Invitation

OsteoRelief Center offers a limited number of complimentary knee arthritis treatment screenings every month. These screenings are a way for knee arthritis sufferers to get some of their questions answered and see if they are a candidate for one of the cutting-edge treatments offered at OsteoRelief Center.

If you would like a complimentary screening, just call 800-227-KNEE(5633) and tell the scheduling expert who answers the phone, "I would like a complimentary knee arthritis screening."

The screenings fill up fast every month. If you do not call in time to get one this month, the expert will schedule you for next month.

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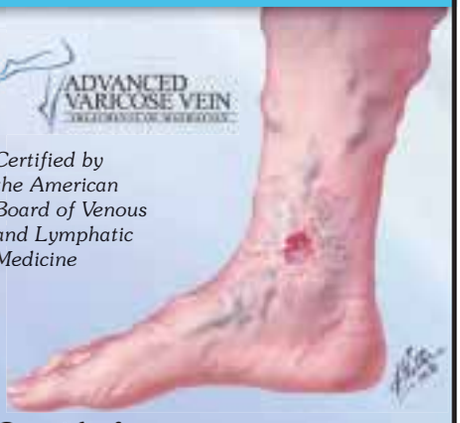
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Things the new 'Annie' gets wrong — and the one thing it gets right

The new incarnation of the musical "Annie" is set in New York and was filmed in New York, but we have some concerns about its portrayal of New York. Not to nitpick, but there are a few things the movie gets very, very wrong. **NED EHRBAR**

1 How basic NYC geography works

There is so much Manhattan neighborhood crossing from one shot to the next in this film, you almost think they're doing it on purpose to mess with New York audiences. The most jarring? Will Stacks (Jamie Foxx) enters his high-rise at Columbus Circle, but what's that a few blocks away once he's upstairs? The Freedom Tower. And come on. Crossing the George Washington Bridge, taking an immediate right and ending up in Liberty Park? Who do you think you're kidding?

2 How Pat Kiernan works

Any New Yorker worth their everything bagel knows that NY1 stalwart and lovable Canadian expat Pat Kiernan is an anchor, not a man-on-the-street reporter. He mans the desk, dutifully reading the newspapers to us every morning. He does not, as the movie portrays, elbow his way ahead of other reporters on the street to shout questions at a mayoral candidate. Show some respect.

3 How Miss Hannigan is supposed to be a villain

So, Miss Hannigan? The dastardly orphan wrangler portrayed by Carol Burnett in the 1982 film? Yeah, she's evil, pure and simple. But maybe Cameron Diaz wouldn't do the part unless the character got some sort of softening and redemption to make her a little likeable?

4 How social media works

Speaking of social media, a climactic chase during which Annie is tracked via her social media presence as New Yorkers post photos of her to Twitter and Instagram is either a sad misapprehension of how people use those networks — I mean, do you type in the intersection you're at when you post? — or a terrifying example of how exploitable geolocation data can be.

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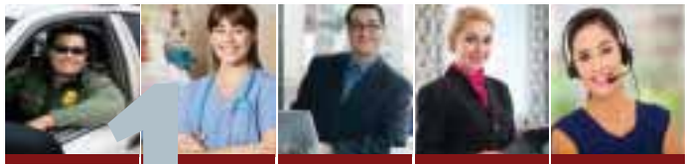
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How musicals work

Aside from "updating" some old "Annie" standards with some GarageBand drum loops that make you long for co-producer Jay Z's earlier work, Will Gluck's film clearly doesn't really want to be a musical. The most inspired moments in the film, few as they are, come when Gluck gets to make the kind of winking comedy he's better at — and which has no place in an "Annie" movie.

BARRY WETCHER

What Hootie and the Blowfish were

Speaking of Miss Hannigan, Diaz's failed singer/backup dancer is beyond grating, but at least the "I was kicked out of C+C Music Factory just before they made it" bit is cute. Less cute? Her line about almost being one of Hootie's blowfish. Anyone who actually gets that reference will realize it gets completely wrong what that band was and how it was composed, and then they'll just be mad at you.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

The one thing it does get right

It's at least right about how gentrified Harlem has become. Despite a throwaway line by Jamie Foxx warning that another character shouldn't venture above 110th Street because "we'll bust you up," the person in charge of casting background actors in the Harlem-set scenes does an inadvertently great job of showing how much the neighborhood has changed.

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Ben Stiller kept a memento of his nights at the museum. / KERRY BROWN

Last night at the

Sequel. Stiller doesn't rule out a reboot, but he says he's through with the franchise.

BEN STILLER
WIREIMAGE

The third film in the Ben Stiller-starring "Night at the Museum" series, "The Secret of the Tomb," has been billed as its final installment. But given the success of the family-friendly franchise, isn't it a bit hasty to just call it like that? "I don't know. I mean, I'm pretty sure it is [the end] for me," Stiller says. "And that was one of the things going into it, by allowing it to be that, it allowed us to tell this story, which I think is my character sort of saying goodbye."

Of course, Stiller is savvy enough to know never to say never in Hollywood. "You never know these days with reboots and number fours," he jokes. "Maybe Edward Norton will show up in the next one. As the Hulk or something. It's one of those things where, I don't know, I won't say never."

For the new installment, Stiller and crew went to London's British Museum for filming, which

Nostalgia

All he wants for Christmas

Maybe it's doing the third entry in a family movie franchise, but Stiller has been feeling nostalgia lately. "As you get older, I feel there's more nostalgia for things you remember from your childhood, and it becomes more meaningful when you find a picture of an old toy," he says. "I was talking to some friends today about skateboarding, and I found online the skateboard that I had when I was 12 years old. I never hung onto it."

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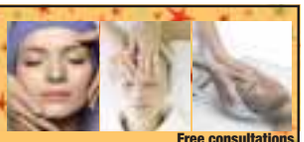
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‘Museum’

was a treat in and of itself. “They had to be OK with what we were doing there because they’d never let anyone film there before,” he says. “We didn’t go to any special rooms or anything like that, but the Hall of Enlightenment there is pretty amazing. We basically got to spend a few nights there. The Rosetta Stone for me was the big thing that I was impressed with. That was our start mark — like, ‘OK, let’s go again: Take 2, back to the Rosetta Stone.’ I even tweeted out a picture of me and Robin [Williams] standing next to it. Just the coolest thing ever.”

And maybe this really is the end of the franchise, because Stiller has already taken home a keepsake. “I took the tablet home when we wrapped the movie. So I’m keeping my fingers crossed that something might happen,” he says of the enchanted prop. “We’ll see what happens, if anything comes to life in my house at night. I’m going to keep it in our little guest house. I have another cool memento from a movie, which are Tom Cruise’s arms from ‘Tropic Thunder.’”

Getting personal

REBEL WILSON
WIREIMAGE

Kissing Ben Stiller

Rebel Wilson gets to play a security guard in “Museum,” which entailed locking lips with Stiller’s Neanderthalic alter ego, Laa. “I tasted a lot of Ben Stiller. Actually it tasted a little like ... alcohol,” Rebel Wilson saucily says. Who knew things got so racy after dark at the museum? “We got quite romantic and passionate,” teases the Australian comedian. “We were trying to push the bounds of family movies,” Stiller quips back. **RICHARD PECKETT**

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Reboot?

‘Reality Bites’ turns 20

Speaking of sequels, has Stiller ever entertained the idea of revisiting the world of “Reality Bites,” his first film as a director which recently turned 20 years old? Well, not exactly. “We actually talked about possibly doing a TV series, but we didn’t end up doing it,” Stiller reveals. “I think it’s probably for the best that we didn’t do it, but it was an interesting idea to revisit it. I don’t know if I would do a sequel to it. It would be kind of weird.”

TV watch list

REALITY

‘The Great Christmas Light Fight’

The Christmas display competition reaches its finale, which apparently includes a family with a flame-shooting sleigh. **SEASON FINALE, 8 P.M., ABC**

DRAMA

‘State of Affairs’

A trip to Qatar takes a bad turn for Charlie and the president, and Charlie continues to try and piece together her own memories of what happened in the convoy attack. **10 P.M., NBC**
LISA WEIDENFELD

Clearly, this “State of Affairs” scene takes place in the Wood Paneling Room of the White House, one of the lesser-known stops on the tour. / BEN COHEN, NBC

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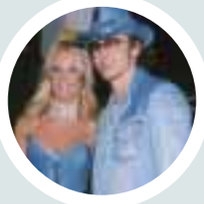
2014's worst fashion moments

Sure, us regular people have bad fashion days. But we expect stars, who have access to the world's top designers, to nail it every time. Looking back over the past year, that's definitely not always the case — a few times we even wondered what certain celebs did to make their stylists hate them. Here are some of 2014's most questionable looks. **RACHEL VIGODA**

The copycats

Katy Perry & Riff Raff

There's nothing wrong with paying homage to the artists who have come before. But there's never an excuse for re-creating Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears' all-denim look at the 2001 American Music Awards, like Riff Raff and Katy Perry did at this year's MTV Video Music Awards.



The costumes

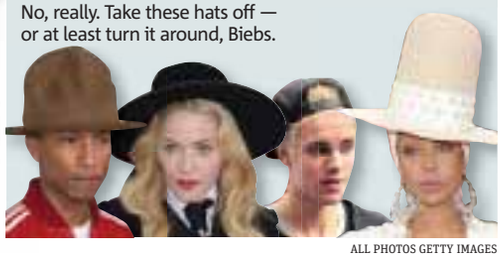
Kate Upton

Kate usually opts for outfits that are fairly simple, designed to not overshadow her ample assets — nothing exciting, but nothing to cringe at. That's why we were surprised she went to the Met Gala dressed as Carmen Miranda heading to a sexy funeral.

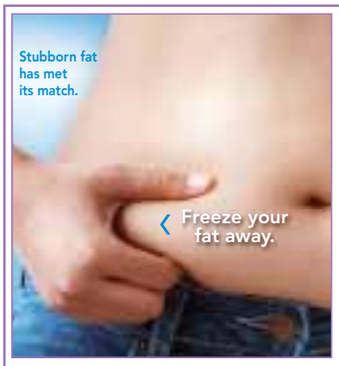
Up top

Hats off

No, really. Take these hats off — or at least turn it around, Biebs.



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES



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Foods to fight the flu

Keep winter illnesses out of season with fitness and these immune-boosting foods. **ELODIE NOEL**

It's a month into winter, and if you're not already boosting your vitamin C intake and washing your hands (the boring advice still works!) it's beyond time to get on that. But those aren't the only ways to stimulate your immune system: Jumping on the treadmill can also help. According to the preliminary results from Flusurvey, an online flu study by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, doing vigorous exercise (think cardio or intense dancing) for at least 2.5 hours a week reduces your chances of catching a flu-like illness by 10 percent. (In other words, 100 cases per 1,000 people could be prevented.) Tack on these immune-boosting foods, and you've got a solid plan to keep the bugs at bay.

Oysters

Selenium and zinc, two essential minerals for disease-fighting cells, can be found in oysters (just go easy on the melted butter).

Grapefruit

Packed with flavonoids, a substance proven to support the immune system, grapefruits are a good source of vitamin C. Squeeze one in the morning or add a few wedges to a salad.

Cabbage

A good source of immune-strengthening glutamine, as well as antioxidants, cabbage is easy and inexpensive to find during the winter months. It boosts the liver's ability to flush out toxins, which also goes for other cruciferous vegetables such as kale, collard greens, spinach and broccoli.

Vitamin A

Low vitamin A equals lower immunity. Luckily, the season's orange foods pack in plenty of it. Look for orange foods: sweet potatoes, carrots, squash, pumpkin, etc.

Avocado

Packed with essential amino acids, antioxidants and healthy fats to help balance hormone production, avocados also support adrenal function and help your immune system work at its peak.

PLUS

Garlic

Apart from keeping sick people at an appropriate distance, two cloves of garlic a day covers your daily dose of allicin, which fights infection and bacteria. A British study found that people who included garlic in their diet were two-thirds less likely to catch a cold than those who took a placebo for 12 weeks.

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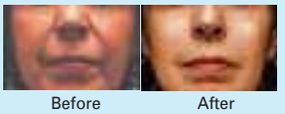

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Half of children born today will live to be 100

Longevity. Worldwide, life expectancy has increased by six years since 1990.

Some scientists say that the first person to live for 1,000 years is probably already alive. But the rest of us mere mortals aren't doing too badly either.

Between 1990 and 2013, average life expectancy rose from 65.3 years to 71.5 years, according to a new analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study. In the past 23 years, life expectancy increased by five years and eight months for men and six years and six months for women.

"The progress we are seeing against a variety of illnesses and injuries is good, even remarkable, but we can and must do even better," says lead author Dr. Christopher Murray. "The huge increase in collective action and funding given to the major infectious diseases such as diarrhea, measles, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria has had a real impact."

However, the developed world is developing some new problems that pose a threat to the gains made elsewhere, according to Murray, the professor of global health at the University of Washington. "This study shows that some major chronic diseases have been largely neglected but are rising in importance, particularly drug disorders, liver cirrhosis, diabetes and chronic kidney disease."

Since 1990, liver cancer caused by hepatitis C increased by 125 percent, drug-related health problems by 63 percent, and chronic kidney disease by 37 percent.

Both high-income and low-income countries have seen their life expectancy rise, but for different reasons. In richer countries, death rates from most cancers (15 percent) and cardiovascular diseases (22 percent) are falling, while poorer areas are making gains from reducing intestinal issues, lower respiratory tract infections and childhood illnesses.

Some of these countries, such as Nepal, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Niger, Maldives, Timor-Leste and Iran have seen exceptional gains in life expectancy in less than three decades: more than 12 years for both sexes.

"Even though we have reached a remarkably high level, life expectancy will keep increasing but at a slower pace in the coming decades," says Maurice Giroud, professor in neurology at the University Hospital of Dijon. "But we can already predict that one in two children who are born today will be a centenarian."

Men vs. women

Why the difference?

The discrepancy between men's and women's lifespans is because women drink less, smoke less and take better care of themselves when they are sick.

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HOW TO MARKET YOURSELF BETWEEN GIGS

Most of us have been unemployed at some point for one reason or another. It's normal for self-esteem to plummet when you're between jobs. Maybe there were budget cuts and your position was abruptly eliminated. Whatever the situation, there are several ways to strategize marketing efforts when you've left a job but don't have a new one lined up.

LinkedIn

Update your LinkedIn profile to highlight your skills but do not feel the urge to update your title to "consultant" or "professional seeking full-time work." Recruiting is a lot like dating, and although you want to get the word out, employers want to know you're a hot commodity.

Changing your title to something generic equates to sitting on the bench waiting to be asked to dance, even when you have a lot to offer. Ramp up your profile with skills and experience and leverage the summary section to include keywords about your industry and/or experiences that prospective employers prize.

Elevator pitch

What is your mission statement? What do you want to do? What are your strengths? Nail it succinctly with confidence and bravado. Tweak your pitch — repeatedly and authentically state it to make it your own.

Business cards

Even if you don't have a job, you are still out there making connections. Get simple cards created as a way to easily give out your contact information. You don't have to break the bank but ensure they include the essentials: your name, email, phone number and Twitter handle (if you have a professional feed). Do you have a mission statement or a portfolio website? Feel free to include those as well.

If you're in finance, going for a conservative black and white card is prudent. But if you work in a creative field like graphics, feel free to include a sample design on the back. It's an easy way to stand out from the crowd, especially when your contact finds your card weeks later.

Writing a blog or having a compelling Twitter feed are both ways to build your reputation. / WAVEBREAK MEDIA

Personal branding

Online presence

Are you active on Twitter? Do you have a blog? Post pictures to Instagram? If you nodded yes to all of the above, keep going. And if you're just getting started, become more active. Keep up with industry trends and become an expert by demonstrating an active voice online.

Inside HR

VICKI SALEMI

Vicki Salemi is a career and human resources expert and consultant with 16-plus years of hands-on management experience. She's a public speaker, coach, the author of "Big Career in the Big City" and on-air host of "Score That Job."

Fill your time positively

During an interview six months from now, a hiring manager will ask how you spent your time. Marketing is important but so is taking care of yourself. Surround yourself with positive people, read books about success and stay physically and mentally healthy. While branding tools are effective, another two are equally important: your smile and demeanor.

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Career track. What to ask yourself before making a change

If going into the office every day leaves you less than thrilled, you're not alone. In fact, Gallup's 2013 State of the American Workplace study found that 70 percent of those polled described themselves as disengaged at work. Read on for the telltale signs that it might be time to say so long to your nine-to-five gig.

1 Going to work feels like a chore. If you hate your job, it might be because it isn't the best fit for your skills and passion. Many freelancers are nudged into self-employment in much the same way.

"I wasn't satisfied with my content job at an Internet company, and I felt like my work was holding me back from accomplishing my main personal goal — to become a professional, full-time writer," says Stefan A. Slater, a 26-year-old freelance writer.

Leaving the security of a full-time job can be scary, but you have to ask yourself: Am I doing the job I always dreamed of doing?

2 You daydream about making your own work schedule. "At my last job, I felt a lot of pressure to be in the office, even though I could do my work from the bottom of the sea if necessary," says Vanessa McGrady, who just left a full-time office job for the freelance life. She currently writes a personal finance column for Forbes.com.

3 You're looking for a challenge. If you're contemplating quitting your job to work for yourself, McGrady suggests lining up your prospects beforehand. Reach out to potential contacts on LinkedIn and other networks.

Yes, the consulting route can sometimes feel unpredictable. But knowing that this is your livelihood definitely revs up the motivation in a way that no other job does. MARIANNE HAYES

Is it time to leave yet? / PIXLAND

What stability?

Your job isn't safe

Those of us with serious job security may find the prospect of self-employment a bit scary. For Dan Spalding, a PR consultant who left his nine-to-five as a corporate communications director in 2009, rumors of impending layoffs were what pushed him to go his own way.

"I wasn't going to be affected, but I knew some of my friends were," says Spalding, founder of Spalding Communications. "I wasn't exactly ready to step out into my consulting business, but I knew it would not be fair for the company to lay people off and keep me on, only to tell them in a few months that I was leaving to build my consultancy.

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Practicality and common sense must be parts of your game plan. Frivolous spending will not buy happiness.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Keep a close watch on your finances. This is not a good time to lend or borrow money. You will regret it if you allow anyone to take advantage of you.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. It's OK to take part in festivities, but remember to keep your aspirations in mind. It's possible that you will meet someone who could give your career a boost.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. An interesting offer will come with delays. Keep all of the details on hand so you can act when the timing is right.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Preparation when applied to an innovative idea will prove profitable. Brush up on marketing and sales techniques.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. The hectic pace that accompanies the end of the year will take its toll on your health. Take some time for personal pleasures and pampering.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will run yourself ragged trying to find the perfect gift. Giving your time is more important than anything you could buy.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Get together with friends to enjoy the spirit of the season. When planning group events, remember to include elderly relatives whom you don't see often.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You and a loved one are likely to feel stressed and emotional. Devote time for just the two of you to reconnect and reflect.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Your home environment will not be relaxing today. Getting out will provide some time away from the tension.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Plan to have fun with friends. Your busy schedule must not stop you from taking part in activities.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. You will be considered for a new opportunity in the new year. Give the matter a lot of thought. It will be the challenge you have been looking for.

EUGENIA LAST

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5			4			3		2
	8		1	3	9			5
	4		2					
	9	1	8			2		
		5			6	9	8	
					8		3	
2			6	4	1		5	
8		9			3			4

6							4	
	2	1						
4	9		6	1	5		7	
9			1	5	6			
	7			4			5	
			8	3	7			1
	5		7	9	3		1	4
						3	6	
	1							5

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

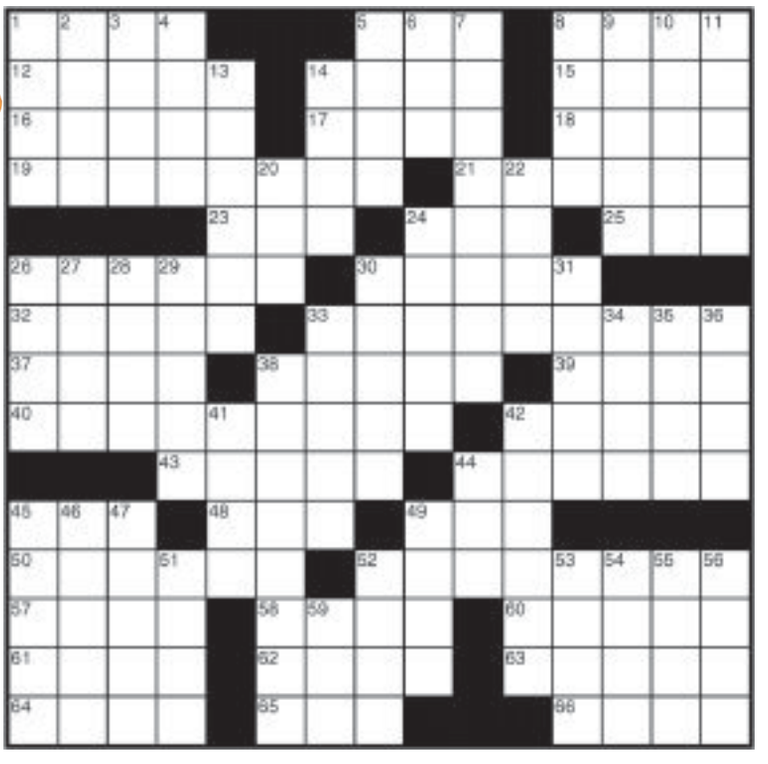
Across

1 Ringlet
5 Telepathy
8 Racing circuits
12 Hunter constellation
14 Chess win
15 — Bator
16 New Zealand native
17 Made the most of
18 Ms. Riefenstahl
19 Cockpit reading
21 Hardened to
23 Lb. and oz.
24 — -fi flick
25 Half a dangerous fly
26 Nova —
30 Keaton or Sawyer
32 Be envious
33 Folk healer
37 Mournful wail
38 Monica of tennis
39 Smelled the coffee
40 Hideouts (hyph.)
42 Call for takeout (hyph.)
43 Bellows
44 Tree nymphs
45 Drag along
48 Prefix for "classic"
49 Hive dweller
50 "I" trouble?
52 Hip-length garments (2 wds.)
57 Mendicant's shout
58 Campus sports gp.
60 Parish donation
61 Ice floe dweller
62 They may be read
63 Pleasure boat
64 Ferber of "Giant"
65 Woof
66 Soot

Down

1 Comet envelope
2 River in Russia
3 Disturbance
4 Loughlin or Petty
5 Proficiency
6 Sault — Marie
7 Three-wheeled taxis
8 Humdinger
9 Storm warning
10 Glazier's squares
11 Catty
13 Scatterbrain
14 Flood residues
20 Ms. Hagen
22 1492 caravel
24 Becomes a dad
26 Accident reminder
27 Boulder's st.
28 Almond-shaped
29 Fractious
30 Editor's marks
31 Broncos great John —
33 Common greeting
34 Pinch
35 Warehouse pallet
36 Folding money
38 Earnestly
41 Scarce as -- teeth
42 Constructs
44 "— Rosenkavalier"
45 Pick on
46 Gave the eye
47 Amazon, e.g.
49 Pasture sounds
51 Cuba, to Castro
52 Yokums' creator
53 Fixes a squeak
54 Fermi split it
55 A grand
56 Equinox mo.
59 KGB counterpart

Weekend's answer



Best of 2014

Through the holidays, Metro takes a look at the issues important to letter writers in 2014. Whether it was gun violence, domestic violence, world conflicts — or cyclists! — Metro readers had a lot to say. Here are some excerpts:

Sexism, guns and violence

While I can't imagine the pain and suffering of the victims' families, I have to say there is a bigger issue than gun laws. The fact remains that at the end of the day, we live in a culture where a woman saying NO is the cause of violence and death.
TOVA WEISBLATT (APRIL 29)

Letter writer Murray Calhoun thinks weapons capable of shooting hundreds of rounds per minute should be kept out of the hands of citizens. He's not alone. That's why the federal government banned them in 1934. The perpetrators of all the mass shootings that have occurred in the last few years all utilized semiautomatic weapons.
KACY KNIGHT (JUNE 3)

I get annoyed when a so-called responsible gun owner whines that gun control means taking guns away from law-abiding, responsible gun owners. If responsible gun owners were actually responsible, there would be no incidents of children getting access to a gun.
KEVIN VALENTINE, (JULY 1)

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3 SPORTS

NFL

Cowboys take NFC East title

The Cowboys shredded the Colts, 42-7, Sunday in Arlington, Texas, and captured the NFC East title for the first time since 2009. The Cardinals, Lions, Cowboys, Packers and Seahawks will be in the NFC playoffs but the NFC South is still undecided. In the AFC, the North title is still up for grabs.

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Jets again put up fight, but again fall to Pats

New England's Brandon Bolden hurdles Jets corner Marcus Williams on Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

NFL. One mistake by Geno Smith proves fatal for Jets and their upset bid.

In what might have been the final home game of Jets head coach Rex Ryan's tenure with the team, New York once again found a way to lose to its rivals, this time a hard-fought 17-16 loss to the Patriots.

A Jonas Gray 1-yard touchdown dive early in the fourth quarter gave the Patriots a 17-13 lead. Then the Patriots, up 17-16 with 5:16 left in the fourth quarter, got a big play on special teams as a Nick Folk field goal attempt for the lead was partially blocked.

It was a game in which the Jets certainly had their chances. Twice in the first quarter they were gifted solid field position but twice the offense was forced to punt.

After a scoreless first, the Patriots took the lead on a six-play, 36-yard drive, capped off by a tight throw from Tom Brady to Rob Gronkowski in the end zone. The Jets' typically ice-cold offense started to warm up after the New England score, highlighted by a 20-yard touchdown pass from Geno Smith to a wide-open Jeff Cumberland — the finishing touches on an 87-yard touchdown drive.

Here are three things that went wrong for the Jets:

1 Missed call
The referees missed a bad one with 14:57 left in the second quarter. Ryan Quigley sent a booming 57-yard punt that was neatly fielded by Danny Amendola, who zigged to his left to return the ball. Linebacker and special teams maven Nick Bellore appeared ready to make a hit but instead was blatantly pushed in the back and was unable to make the hit. Two referees were right there and neither one of them whistled the block, which allowed for a 39-yard return to the Jets 36-yard line. Six plays later, Brady would put the Pats up 7-0 when he hit Gronkowski in the end zone.

2 Injury bug bites
In the second quarter, the Jets suffered perhaps their biggest loss of the year in terms of injury when Nick Mangold went down with an ankle injury. Carted off the field, Mangold did not return to the game. Wide receiver Percy Harvin also left due to injury (ribs). While Dalton Freeman filled in admirably for the injured Mangold, the loss of the Pro Bowl center is not good news as the team tries to finish the season strong. And missing Harvin means a bland offense is without his playmaking services. That's two big losses in a game where the loss on the field was bad enough.

3 No Geno. ... No!
With 1:06 left in the third quarter, it finally happened. All game long, Smith was quietly efficient and tidy with no turnovers. But then the second-year quarterback decided to target Jace Amaro, and badly underthrew the ball right into the waiting arms of Patriots linebacker Jamie Collins. Eight plays and 38 yards later, the Patriots were up 17-13. Since reclaiming the starting job in late November, Smith has done a better job in the turnover battle. He had just two interceptions in his last three starts (albeit, he only had two touchdowns in that stretch) but he has stepped up and played better. On Sunday, he read the pressure better and didn't watch the pass rush, stepping up into the pocket to make some nice throws. But that turnover was crucial.

KRISTIAN DYER
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sports@metro.us

NFL

Giants dump St. Louis, 37-27

Sunday's tilt between New York and the Rams was a physical and borderline-dirty affair, as the Giants escaped St. Louis with a 37-27 win. Led by a precise Eli Manning and a fired-up Odell Beckham Jr., the Giants (6-9) efficiently executed their gameplan on both sides of the ball.

If not for some garish tactics from the Rams — and the officials lacking some control — Big Blue would've likely put the game out of reach in the first half. But as a Jeff Fisher-coached team is accustomed to doing, they pushed the right buttons, played close to the edge of dirtiness, and baited the Giants into playing their style of ball.

The Giants obliged and nearly turned the game into a lawless "Thunderdome" atmosphere. But thankfully for Big Blue, order was restored when Manning connected with Beckham on an 80-yard touchdown play toward the end of the third quarter, giving them a 34-20 lead.

1 Temper tantrums
The Giants were forced so out of character that they nearly amassed a league-high in penalty yards in the first half. Their staggering 124 yards of penalties on nine infractions almost surpassed the league-high of 163 in just the first two quarters of actions.

2 Toe the line
The Rams' vaunted pass rush was feeble and passive, as the patchwork Giants' offensive line neutralized everyone. St. Louis is typically led by Robert Quinn and rookie Aaron Donald, but neither were much of a factor. Quinn, who led the league with 19 sacks last season, and tallied 10 1/2 entering Sunday's game, could only muster five tackles.

Eli Manning was barely touched Sunday. / GETTY IMAGES

3 Easy for Eli
Thanks to that massive effort by Manning's protectors, the signal-caller was barely touched. Manning connected on 25 of 32 for 391 yards and three touchdowns, including the game-icing hookup with Beckham. Beckham finished with game-highs in yards (148) but he wasn't alone in scorching the Rams' secondary, as Rueben Randle added six receptions for 132 yards and a TD. **TONY WILLIAMS**

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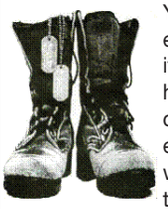

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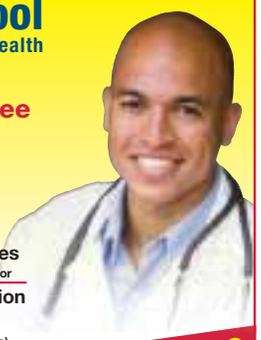

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Christmas Day
CLOSED

Canon

EOS 70D DSLR Camera Body- BUNDLE
ICA70DA
$999.00
After $200 Instant Rebate
$39 per week*

Nikon

D5300 24.1 MP DX-Format DSLR Camera Body - BUNDLE
INKDS300BA
$696.95
After $100 Instant Rebate
$28 per week*

SONY

Alpha a77II Translucent Mirror DSLR - BUNDLE
DEXPS191CFB
$917.13
After $300 Instant Rebate
$36 per week*

TAMRON

16-300mm f/3.5-6.3 PZD MACRO Zoom Lens - BUNDLE
DEXPS190CFB
$611.60
After $30 Instant Rebate
$25 per week*

LG

UB8200 49" Class 4K Smart LED TV
LOT49UB8200
$999.00
After $350 Instant Rebate
$39 per week*

SAMSUNG

Galaxy Tab Pro 10.1" Tablet
SSGTP1016BK
$329.99
After $70 Instant Rebate
$15 per week*

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FlexShopper

FlexShopper prices displayed are estimates only - actual payment may differ. FlexShopper not available for all states. Please see in-store sales associate for details.

No Credit? No Cash? No problem!

*This is an estimated weekly payment, rounded to the nearest dollar for the merchandise shown if you were to acquire ownership after making 52 weekly payments. The actual weekly payment may vary depending on your spending limit and how much you spend; the actual weekly payment will be in your lease. Ownership is optional and you may purchase or return the merchandise at any time after the initial payment has been paid, the minimum lease period has been met and provided proper notice is given to FlexShopper per your lease. See your lease for more information regarding ownership and minimum term.

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